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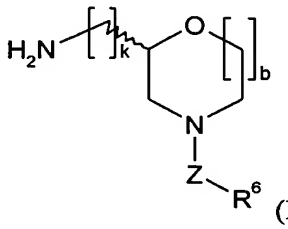
DT04 Rec'd PCT/PTO 28 SEP 2004

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IIIA)



(IIIA)

or a salt thereof;

wherein;

Z ~~represents~~is a bond, CO, SO_2, $CR^{10}R^7(CH_2)_n$, $(CH_2)_nCR^{10}R^7$, $CHR^7(CH_2)_nO$, $CHR^7(CH_2)_nS$, $CHR^7(CH_2)_nOCO$, $CHR^7(CH_2)_nCO$, $COCHR^7(CH_2)_n$ or $SO_2CHR^7(CH_2)_n$;

R^6 ~~represents~~is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aryl-C_{2-6} alkenyl-, -CN or a group of formula $-Y^2-J^3$;

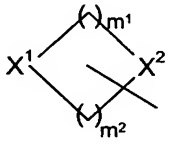
R^7 ~~represents~~is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, $CONR^8R^9$ or $COOC_{1-6}$ alkyl;

a and b ~~represent~~is 1 or 2, such that a+b represents 2 or 3;

n ~~represents~~is an integer from 0 to 4;

M ~~represents~~is a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl or C_{3-8} cycloalkenyl group fused to a monocyclic aryl or monocyclic heteroaryl group;

J^3 ~~represents~~is a moiety of formula (K):



(K)

wherein X^1 ~~represents~~is oxygen, NR^{11} or sulphur, X^2 ~~represents~~is CH_2, oxygen, NR^{12} or sulphur, m^1 ~~represents~~is an integer from 1 to 3 and m^2 ~~represents~~is an integer from 1 to 3, provided that m^1+m^2 is in the range from 3 to 5, also provided that when both X^1 and X^2 ~~represent~~are oxygen, NR^{11}, NR^{12} or sulphur, m^1 and m^2 must both not equal less than 2, wherein K is optionally substituted by one or more (eg. 1 or 2) $-Y^3$-aryl, $-Y^3$-heteroaryl, $-Y^3$-CO-aryl, $-COC_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl, $-Y^3$-CO-heteroaryl, $-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-Y^3-COOC_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-Y^3-COC_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-Y^3$-W, $-Y^3$-CO-W, $-Y^3-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-Y^3-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, hydroxy, oxo, $-Y^3-SO_2NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-Y^3-SO_2C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-Y^3-SO_2$aryl, $-Y^3-SO_2$heteroaryl, $-Y^3-NR^{13}C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-Y^3-NR^{13}SO_2C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-Y^3-NR^{13}CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-Y^3-NR^{13}COOR^{14}$ or $-Y^3-OCONR^{15}R^{16}$ groups, and is optionally fused to a monocyclic aryl or heteroaryl ring;

R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13} and R^{14} independently ~~represent~~are hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^{15} and R^{16} independently ~~represent~~are hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl or R^{15} and R^{16} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached may form a morpholine, piperidine or pyrrolidine ring;

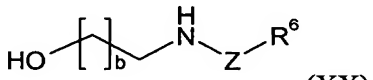
R^{17} and R^{18} independently ~~represent~~are hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

W ~~represents~~is a saturated or unsaturated, non-aromatic 5-7 membered ring containing between 1 and 3 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur, optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen or hydroxy groups;

Y^1, Y^2 and Y^3 independently ~~represent~~are a bond or a group of formula - $(CH_2)_pCR^cR^d(CH_2)_q$- wherein R^c and R^d independently ~~represent~~are hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl or R^c and R^d may together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, and p and q independently ~~represent~~are an integer from 0 to 5 wherein p + q is an integer from 0 to 5;, and;

k is 1 or 2;

which process comprises the reaction of a compound of formula (XX)

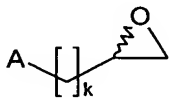


(XX)

wherein;

b, Z, and R^6 are as defined for formula (IIIA);

with an enantiomer of a compound of formula (XXI)



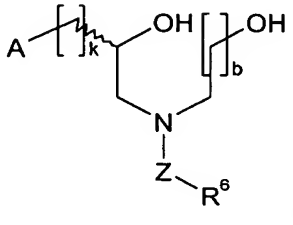
(XXI)

wherein;

A is a protected amino group and k is 1 or 2;

followed by deprotection of the amino group to give a compound of formula (IIIA).

2. (original) A process according to claim 1 wherein an intermediate compound of formula of formula (IIIB);

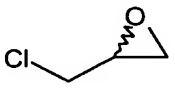


(IIIB)

wherein;

k, Z, R^6, and b are as hereinbefore defined for formula (IIIA) in claim 1, and A is a protected amino group;
is isolated.

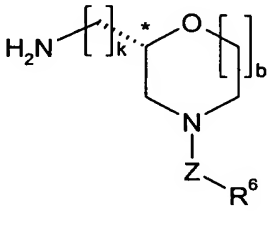
3. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IIIB) as defined in claim 2, which process comprises the reaction of a compound of formula (XXII)



(XXII)

with a compound of formula (XX) as defined in claim 1.

4. (original) A process for the separation of a compound of formula (IIIAS);

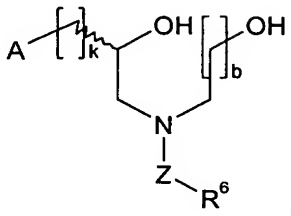


(IIIAS)

wherein;

k, b, Z, and R^6 are as defined for formula (IIIA) in claim 1;
from its antipode, which process comprises reaction of the mixture of a compound of formula (IIIAS) and its antipode with an enzyme and a suitable enzyme donor.

5. (original) A compound of formula (IIIB)



(IIIB)

wherein;

k, Z, R^6, and B are as defined for formula (IIIA) in claim 1 and A isa protected amino group;

or a salt thereof.